Notte's Super Rad Plot Synopsis!

Heya! I'm Notte, a faerie from the kingdom of Alberia.

Notte

Lemme tell you about how our journey started and all the people we met on the way.

One day, we learned the power of the Sacred Shard that protects the kingdom had started to weaken.

King of Alberia
Aurelius

We must have a new Sacred Shard, but only those who have made a pact with a dragon can handle their power.

I'll make a dragonpact as my siblings did and return with a new Shard.

I am relying on you, my son.

Seventh Scion
Euden

The king made for the Binding Ruins, while Euden set off for the Mistholt.

Zethia is Euden's sister and best friend. Oh, and also the Auspex of the Ilian Church, which is a big honkin' deal.

I shall also help Euden!

Zethia

Me three!

See, we were worried about Euden, so we decided to go after him.

But right when we found him, some crazy masked girl attacked us...

Who ARE you?!

Urgh...

crack

You were the last people I wanted to see my face.

...and she looked EXACTLY like Zethia! What the hey?!

After fending off the girl who looked like Zethia, we thought Euden was ready to form a dragonpact.

If you wish to see our pact made true, then journey now into the Mistholt!

Oh, come on! We're STILL not done?!

So while searching for the Mistholt, we ran into a girl who was being chased and decided to help out.

Bah. I didn't expect to be interrupted.

As thanks for your aid, permit me to serve as your guardian!

Elisanne

Her name is Elisanne, and she's a Paladyn of the Ilian Church! ...I know, right? It's RAD.

Next, we met a mercenary named Ranzal who knew how to get to the Mistholt.

I wanna see what kinda king you become.

Ranzal

Sorry for makin' fun of ya.

We had to fight him to earn his trust—which was weird, but hey, whatever. He seemed impressed.

Eventually, we made it to where the dragon was...

...and had to fight HIM to complete the pact!

But in the end...

The power to inspire others to fight for you is a kingly ability indeed.

I am the Windwyrm, Midgardsormr!

As lord of storms and ruler of this region, I shall become a great wind to protect you!

Yay!

Midgardsormr

We were led to the Shard by Cleo, the guardian of the Mistholt.

I have been waiting for you for a long time, my new master.

Uh, you mean me?

Cleo

The thick mist cleared, and light shone into the forest, almost like it was happy Euden had arrived...

...and that's when we finally found the Shard!

But then, King Aurelius showed up acting SUPER weird. He wasn't even supposed to be there!

If you wish everyone's lives spared, bring the Shard and come with me, Auspex.

Run, Zethia!

Just when we thought all hope was lost...

Oh, Goddess! Please help us!

...Euden suddenly turned into a dragon we'd never seen before!

Spoiler alert: It wasn't enough.

Please be safe, everyone...

And the king took the Shard and Zethia away with him.

After we found King Alberius's old castle in the Mistholt, we turned it into our new base.

Now that we're healed, we must return to the capital and find the man who is impersonating my father!

Then we can take back Zethia and the Shard!

Hold on, Zethia! We're coming!

As we followed the shore to the capital, we ran into soldiers under a flag we'd never seen.

They do not appear to be a welcoming party.

How can this be?

That is the standard of the evil Dyrenell Empire which fell centuries ago!

That's Leif, captain of the royal guard. Why is HE looking for Euden?

Ugh...

The king has changed.

Alberia is no more—in its place is the Dyrenell Empire.

Dude, we weren't gone THAT long! What happened?!

Leif

Next, the chief of the Capital Guard showed up—a huge jerkface named Harle.

Well, well!

If it isn't the greatest criminal of our time: the traitorous prince himself!

He started saying a buncha nonsense about us setting fiends on the capital and kidnapping Zethia and blah blah blah.

Harle

Seize them! My father the emperor wants the traitors taken in!

Open your eyes, Emile! That man isn't our father!

But they weren't really much for listening, so we had to haul buns outta there.

Sixth Scion
Emile

While we were fleeing from the imperial army, we met a sylvan named Luca.

Our village and Alberia always left each other alone.

But the second they became an empire, they started threatening us!

Luca

Then Luca tried to take on Emile's pactbound dragon alone, which... Well, you can guess how that went.

After arriving at his village, we helped him rescue his sister from imperial soldiers.

You okay, Sarisse— OW!

You IDIOT! I was worried about you!

WHAM!

Sarisse

It turned out all the other villagers were just in hiding, which was a HUGE relief.

Together with the sylvans, we set about repelling the Empire!

I'M the boss here, dragon! Don't tell me what to do!

Yeaaaah, Prince Emile was a real piece of work.

It was hard to imagine why a dragon would ever form a pact with him!

You will want to be careful of them.

Bah!

But it turned out she just wanted to protect the beautiful area where she lived.

That's why she agreed to it.

To hell with your ocean! It's all worthless!

Get up! Get up, I say!

?!

But it turned out Emile was just lying to get her to form a pact, which is SUPER crappy!

After abandoning her pact with Emile...

Mercury

You are the true heir to dragonblood!

My name is Mercury.

I am mistress of the tides and ruler of the waves. I shall be the ocean that carries you!

NOOO!

...the waterwyrm made a new pact with Euden, who agreed to protect her treasured waters!

So just as the pact with Mercury was formed...

BOOOOM

Did Mount Adolla just erupt?!

Indeed! His Majesty is doing battle with the dragon that rules over it as we speak.

Why would he even DO that?!

Eventually, Harle left—but not before telling us Zethia was on Mount Adolla with the emperor.

Ascending an erupting volcano is really dangerous...

But we must!

There wasn't a choice—we had to save Zethia!

By the time we arrived, the Flamewyrm was in bad shape.

Was nearly dying the last time not enough for you, my son?

<Graaaah...

My father would never throw the country into chaos OR harm the dragons that support it!

We told Zethia to run, but...

I appreciate you all coming to help me. But I carry on the will of the first Auspex—the Goddess herself.

So to fulfill my duty, I must go with Aurelius.

So how does all this relate to the Auspex who sealed away the Other?

But you can form multiple dragonpacts—so you can save our father!

Still your mouth, child. Farewell, weaklings!

No, Zethia! Don't go!

After Zethia and Aurelius split, we tried to help the Flamewyrm. But...

Help me?

Why should I believe that?

Depressed, she flew deeper into the cave.

We followed, and ended up saving her from fiends.

If I go to the crater, I may be able to correct the mana disturbance.

I'll shapeshift and help you!

?!

I'd sooner you forge a pact with me than let another dragon lay hand on this mana.

That's when we learned that condensing the out-of-control mana into a pactstone would calm the volcano!

Flamewyrm, will you forge a pact with me? Together, we can do more than just stop a single volcano.

You are a very strange man, little Prince.

I am Brunhilda!

Raaah!

Mistress of crimson, the inferno clad, and the flame that shall guide your way!

Brunhilda

After forming the pact, the volcano stopped erupting!

But THEN Brunhilda transformed into a woman!

Let's be together forever, darling!

Just call me Mym!

She really took to Euden— and I mean REALLY!

Mym

We set off to find more dragons to form pacts with!

I agree that the emperor is a dire threat. His power was almost like...

Well, whatever's making him strong, there's only one thing to do...

Go make a fourth dragonpact, darling!

On Mym's advice, we set off for the Dornith Mountains to find the Lightwyrm.

That's where we ran into that jerk Emile, who ALSO wanted a pact with the Lightwyrm!

Aaah!

The lightning opened a cage of fiends!

We have to save him!

Fiiiine.

Why do you guys all have to be so NICE?!

In the end, Emile came after us alone. But then...

I'm surprised a stubborn old dragon like you came to see us of your own volition!

WHOOSH

Ha ha!

It has been some time, Flamewyrm!

And what a joy to meet you both, dragonblood princes!

Stubborn old dragon? Oh man, THIS can't be good...

In the end, the Lightwyrm challenged both princes to a battle to test their strength.

pant

pant

Get him! GET HIM!

Yessss! WE WON!

What is wisdom but the means to win victory without sullying one's hands?

So this made zero sense to me, but the Lightwyrm decided they BOTH won!

But when we asked who could make a pact...

I'm far too kind to disappoint either of you, and couldn't possibly choose...

So you'll have to choose between yourselves in a fight to the death!

I KNEW this wasn't good!

Emile ran at Euden, who knocked his sword out of his grubby little hands!

Why must I be the only one to suffer this degradation?! WHY?!

I'm sorry, Lightwyrm!

But I cannot do as you ask!

sob

Euden told the Lightwyrm he wouldn't attack anyone who was unarmed.

He then said that guiding stray dragons back into the fold was his royal duty.

Ha ha ha! Oh my, yes! You've every bit the gall of Alberius the Founder himself! I was merely taking the measure of your character, as promised.

Then you never really intended—

It turned out the whole thing was a test!

I am the Lightwyrm, Jupiter! Lord of thunder and light, and master of these peaks! Now shall I be the gleaming bolt that smites your foes!

It will be a pleasure working with you, Euden!

Emile ran off like a chump—and of course he blamed Euden for everything.

DAMN YOU, BROTHER!

Jupiter

Euden told us he thought Emile would rise again because of the suffering he'd overcome. But just then...

A fourth pact has been sworn!

Who could have stolen into my territory without notice?

It was the Zethia look-alike! AGAIN!

I am not your enemy.

I must see fate thwarted.

Make for the Binding Ruins. King Aurelius and Zethia will be there, if things are as I know them to be.

We knew this whole thing was probably a trap...

But we were willing to risk whatever it took in order to save Zethia.

As we made for the Binding Ruins, we led refugees fleeing the Empire into the Halidom.

Our homes and fields were all razed to the ground...

We need to stop the emperor for everyone's sake—not just Zethia's!

But Euden had all of us to help him, so he couldn't possibly fail.

Ugh...

I mean, he'd formed pacts with four of the Six Greatwyrms!

Although folks said one of the six—Cthonius—was dead.

So where could the last one be?

We learned there were lots of Binding Ruins on the continent, and they all had a dark power sleeping inside them...

This place has the same feeling that king gives off. It sets my scales on edge.

I've felt this before, long, long ago...

Urrrgh...

Ugh.

The mana inside was all stagnant and weird—it totally gave me the creeps!

We realized the emperor first appeared after King Aurelius came to this place.

"I awoke in the miasma and reclaimed one of what was lost." Those were his words.

If that were true, nothing should remain here for him. Yet here he is.

What were we going to find in a place the royal family kept hidden all this time?

I cannot sustain this form for long.

Follow me.

Oh!

Right! We need to find Zethia!

The fiends inside the ruin were super gnarly. Even after we beat 'em, they just kept moving!

I remember now!

It's the Other that's giving off this creepy aura, darling!

He is an awful being your ancestor sealed away!

Grrr...

So it was this Other creepo who made the king act all nutty!

Eventually, we found who we were looking for...

I must perform the rite in the Channeling Chamber, where a portion of myself long slumbered.

Ha ha...

I'll form a river from the lees that have churned within the Shard's seal—the Flow Eternal.

We had no idea what he was yammering on about, but we knew it wasn't good.

Anyway, that's when we confronted him!

Hear me, Auspex. I know your mind. You await a chance to purge this evil—but that chance will never come.

Why do you know my thoughts?

The Other is a foe beyond your strength.

But you have me... and I have your power.

With the two of us together, your power doubles—which means we may yet dispel his foul presence!

Okay, so she's ALSO Zethia?! What the hey?!

But there was no time to think about that—we just had to trust her!

Goddess Ilia, grant me your divine aegis and make manifest your miraculous power!

Haaaaah!

BEGONE FROM THIS WORLD, OTHER!

The incredible power of two Auspexes was SURE to be enough to save the king!

Return to the world of impurity from whence you came!

Hoooah!

Aaaaargh!

I will not fall... Not to a pair of children!

Heh heh.

Or so we thought— but something wasn't right.

I am far from finished.

Come to me, Zodiark!

Turns out the king had forged a pact with the Shadowwyrm— and the dragon was ALSO being controlled!

The king grabbed Zethia and took off...

I await you in the Channeling Chamber. Come and see what unfolds on its altar.

ZETHIA!

So of course, we took off after 'em.

We eventually caught up and managed to recover Zethia.

Out of my way, boy!

Come away from her NOW!

Before...

But something about her seemed... different.

Before she stabs you in the back?

Turns out the ritual was already finished and the Other had possessed her. Oh man, what a heel turn!

King Aurelius put his life on the line to protect Euden from the Other.

Father!

Do not mourn me, Euden.

Accept my soul as mana, Shadowwyrm...

The king became one with the Shadowwyrm and chased after Zethia.

He told us not to follow him, but fat chance of that!

This is clearly the cruel Other's handiwork.

You must... fight me... Please, Euden...

If I seal a pact with you, I can live on...

Euden then formed a pact with the wounded Shadowwyrm in order to save him.

I am he who waltzes in the black...

I am darkness incarnate... And I am soul-fused with your fallen father!

ROOOOAR!

From this moment on, I will be your shadow, ever vigilant and protective!

Zodiark

With Zodiark on his side, Euden now had pacts with ALL the living Greatwyrms!

We thought that would be enough to save Zethia, but...

That's a primeval fiend!

Graagh!

Indeed! It was born anew thanks to the power sealed away in this place!

Eventually, a flood of fiends will wash over everything! ***The Flow Eternal!***

The Other claimed he was going to unseal the Binding Ruins and fill the land with fiends!

The Dyrenell Empire's purpose is to defend the Flow Eternal from "heroes" who rise to stop it!

I will right this twisted world!

There's nothing right about a world where innocent people suffer, man. Sheesh!

After taking over Zethia's body, the Other proclaimed himself the new ruler of the Dyrenell Empire.

I, the Auspex of the Nether, shall rule this continent!

Heh heh.

If a village resists, put it to the torch! Let no rebellious stone stand atop another!

Empress Zethia

Afterward, the other Zethia sent us outside the ruins with the last of her power.

Do not worry about my life.

Seek the Dawnshard for your own.

Those were her final words before she vanished.

But when we helped some folks on the way back to the Halidom, the Empire decided to attack us for it.

Look! A flag with a greatbear's mug slapped on top!

That's Valyx's standard!

But how? The castle is protected by the Windwyrm's wall of gales!

Euden said Valyx wasn't the kind of guy to join an evil empire, but...

Their intrusion has already set the fiends of the forest on edge.

Then we need to subdue the fiends AND the army!

We had to get things to where we could talk!

After we reached Valyx and said we weren't plotting anything and asked him to go...

Perhaps today, but what of the morrow?

The Empire will not suffer a potential threat.

Not even one ignorant of itself.

He asked about our future plans, and we couldn't answer.

Fourth Scion Prince Valyx

After questioning us, Valyx made a temporary withdrawal.

Valyx is right.

We have no clear purpose as we are now.

There's no way to save Zethia right now, so what are we fighting for?

Boom!

Crash!

We decided to focus on helping folks by getting rid of fiends.

And after we returned to the castle...

Thank you, Highness! It's only because of you that we know peace.

Yay!

Three cheers for Euden, our savior and rightful king!

Oh, I'm nothing so grand. I'm merely trying to help...

Wait. A king? That would mean...

Why don't we create a place where people can live in peace?

We can make our own **kingdom** right here!

A kingdom that welcomes anyone who seeks happiness!

Sounds great!

After figuring out his purpose, Euden went to tell Valyx.

But then...

Your "homeland of peace" will be born into the fires of war.

Would you persist knowing this?

I'll do whatever it takes to ensure the safety of the people!

But to rule a country, I must be worthy of your recognition.

Euden was once told there were three traits necessary to become a king.

You would ask an enemy general to be the arbiter of your worth?

So be it, then. Combat will make clear your qualifications.

So Euden chose to fight Valyx head on to earn that recognition!

The first trait: A king must be born of the true and rightful bloodline—a master of the dragonblood.

The second trait: A ruler must be strong in both body and spirit.

Euden proved he had both those traits down.

Eventually...

The final qualification makes itself known only in times of mortal crisis.

Come, my pactbound dragon!

THOR!

Thor

Valyx suddenly shapeshifted and attacked us!

His power was incredible, and he had tons of soldiers to boot! But just when things seemed dire...

Oi!

You'll not lay one finger on Euden, scum!

CHAAARGE!

Why are...

All the people Euden saved came to his rescue!

This proved he had the final trait—the faith of the people.

Victory is yours, my brother.

This day, you have gained your crown.

Byeeee!

...Thank you, Valyx.

After getting Valyx's approval...

Alberius once said, "A kingdom does not make a people—a people make a kingdom."

I now claim this as the first day in the history of New Alberia!

HUZZAH!

Now he was REALLY a king! Woooo!

Empress Zethia would surely have learned of New Alberia...

And yet, she didn't rush to attack us.

Many of Euden's siblings were also with the Empire.

But as much as we wanted to know where they stood...

We should forge an alliance with the Aquapolis of Saint Lotier!

Its ruler is said to be a good man!

I'm all for that!

We hurried to Saint Lotier, but...

Yeah, I may have gone on a little rampage and broke some stuff here.

Har har!

He's hiding something!

Why have you come here, Ranzal? You are a son to me no longer.

Lord of Saint Lotier
Zacharias

Turns out Ranzal was the heir to Saint Lotier this whole time! Whaaaaat?!

Ranzal's dad said a rookie king and a man who left home because he hated politics wouldn't be good partners.

Then I am committed to earning your trust from the ground up.

Allow me to serve Saint Lotier as you deem necessary.

Interesting.

So we agreed to exterminate a nearby nest of fiends!

We made short work of them— or so we thought.

Wait, MORE fiends? Did we miss some?

Perhaps they are coming from the Davian Wetlands, the old battleground near here.

SCREE!

SCREE!

The place sounded super dangerous, but we didn't have a choice, sooo...

After Ranzal had his dad evacuate people near the wetlands, we made our way there.

Y'know, Pops said earlier that he'd form an alliance if I went back to Saint Lotier.

Maybe we should do that instead.

But if no one defeats these fiends, innocent people will suffer.

Wait, what was that thing your father said again?

Ya never change...

SCREEEEE!?

What was that sound?!

We followed the sound deeper into the wetlands, and found more than just fiends!

Ugh. Euden?!

Emile?!

What are you doing here?!

So instead of telling us what he was up to, all Emile did was moan.

Before, I wouldn't have thought twice about icin' a chump like you...

But now I can't bring myself to kill a guy what won't fight. Guess somebody's rubbin' off on me.

I'll let Saint Lotier deal with ya. Enjoy the dungeon!

Noooooo!

But as we were taking him back to the Aquapolis...

Kindly let Emile go.

Phares?!

Another of Euden's siblings showed up! But was he friend...or foe?

Euden told us he was a friendly sort who loved research, but...

Ha ha ha! I've just made the most fascinating discovery!

Yer the one behind these fiends? Ya got some nerve!

Ranzal was so annoyed he attacked him—but it just bounced off his skin!

You see, I'm afflicted with a rather troublesome sort of curse.

You have wyrmscale!

He told us he lured fiends to the wetlands to see how the ruins would respond.

Heh heh...

The ancient weaponry defending this place stirs once more.

CREEEEEAK!

Eeeeeek!

Okay, what's happening now?!

What ancient horror have you awoken, Phares?

I can't let this thing out into the world!

Truly impressive!

That was a most elucidating fight indeed.

slash

slash

Ha ha!

It was tough, but we defeated the mystery weapon.

Then, Phares finally told us what got the fiends all hot and bothered...

I seek knowledge of the civilization that rose and fell before our time—knowledge of our very world itself!

A storm is brewing, my brother—one fit to take the entire world.

It began the day you awoke to the dragon's power.

I pray our next meeting will not be as foes.

What bearing do my actions have on the fate of the world?

Wait!

Man, I hate it when bad guys get all ominous and then bolt!

Anyway, we went back to Saint Lotier so Euden could hash it out with Ranzal's dad.

You can't have Ranzal. He is an integral asset for New Alberia.

Then we have nothing further to speak of.

It looked like our negotiations had failed.

But then...

Henceforth, you shall be Saint Lotier's lieutenant in New Alberia—our new alliance partner.

You've grown, Ranzal.

Ranzal's dad accepted us! Score one for the good guys!

Our alliance with Saint Lotier made it easier than ever to get supplies.

But just as we were planning to **head to Valkaheim**...

Your Highness, a major battle has broken out in Valkaheim!

It seems the cathedral there was attacked, and the survivors are pleading for our aid.

But Valkaheim is ruled by my strongest sibling, Prince Leonidas.

A minor disturbance like this should pose no problem for him...

We learned the cathedral's survivors fled to a place called the Forsaken Way, so we hurried to save 'em.

But dudes? It was AWFUL. Lava was falling outta the sky the whole darn time!

This used to be a tunnel of sorts, but most people give it a wide berth nowadays.

The survivors are in the abandoned church ahead.

You have my gratitude for leading me here.

Hot hot hooot!

OW! It's so HOT!

Suddenly, the assassin who once targeted Elisanne showed up!

Alex?!

Those people are traitors who trample upon the Goddess's teachings!

The same goes for you, Elisanne—you are no Paladyn!

Alex

Turns out Alex was the one who attacked the church in Valkaheim.

I am a servant of the Goddess—and I SHALL see her will executed!

Now DIE!

Hey, so if they're both from the Church, why are they fighting?!

What?! The evil god Morsayati is Ilia's KID?!

So the scrolls claim—which has led to a schism in the Church between those who believe and those who do not.

I know not how one could accept such a thing, but sadly, many do.

Hmm... But how does this relate to the chaos in Valkaheim?

Excuse me... Some of the other survivors went further into the tunnel, surrounded by a strange dark haze.

Well, THAT'S a piece of bad news.

I'm starting to think this is no mere abandoned path.

That was also the way Alex went, so we took off up the path.

But just as we caught up with Alex...

Poor fools.

Did you not realize this forsaken place is under my control?

Yeah, so this guy was all kinds of menacing—hard to believe he's Euden's brother!

There is no "**chaos**" in Valkaheim. This is a purge.

A purge of all those who dissatisfy me.

First Heir Leonidas

Great advancements require sacrifice.

Aaah ha-ha ha!

This place is yet another Binding Ruin...

and the power within shall be mine!

We learned pretty quick that Leonidas wasn't our friend—AND he'd promised Alex he'd return the Church to how it was!

I do this to reclaim safe refuge!

I will not let you defeat His Excellency!

Pathetic! It is time to end this folly.

?!

...Mars! Come forth!

We'd heard Mars was a flame dragon as strong as Mym, but...

A dragon is not a toy to be used in your foul alchemical experiments!

I simply fulfilled his desire to become the most powerful dragon in the world.

Now... taste his blaze!

ROOOOOOOOAR!

Mars

Even though his own allies were in the way, Leonidas ordered Mars to attack us before heading further up the tunnel.

Are you all right, Alex?!

What...? Wh-why...?

As thanks for saving her, Alex told us more about her past.

I was rescued by Elisanne, who took me to the Church. While there, I came to understand ideals such as love and kindness.

Ngh...

To live and have no home to return to is its own kind of death.

I must return to His Excellency Leonidas.

Get real, Alex! A world ruled by the Other is gonna big-time SUCK!
Ha ha ha! The Other's power is almost ready to be released!
If you would save children yet to come, then END THIS NOW!
I... I...
AAARRRGH!
SLASH!
A-Alex! You dare?! Ah, but your courage comes too late...
Morsayati's power shall be released and return to the core!
So all this time, the Other had been recovering pieces of his body while possessing Zethia's!
And MY body is capable of absorbing the vast accumulation of mana left behind.
I shall usher in a glorious age as a new emperor whose power exceeds even the Dyrenell Empire!
It seemed like Mars's next attack was going to be the end for us...
I pity you, Mars. You succumbed to your ambitions, and are now a mere puppet.
I'll show you the power of a true pact—one made of LOVE!
—RAOOOOOOR
Mym absorbed the flame mana from his attack and turned the tables on him!
But since Leonidas accomplished what he set out to do, he booked it outta there.
The sorrows you've known allow you to do things no one else can.
So lend us your aid!
For the nonce, I shall dedicate myself to atoning for my sins...
And that's how Alex came back to the Halidom with us!

An invitation to a party?

Greetings, Brother!

Third Scion Chelle

Yeah. It's from my sister Chelle, who rules **the Radiant City of Chanzelia.**

We accepted her invite in the hope of learning what she thought of the Empire.

But then she said to meet her off in the middle of nowhere!

So where's this damn party already?!

Certainly nowhere in sight. Though I do see an object of incredible size approaching us.

pant pant

RUMBLE...

Rejoice! I have come to fetch you all!

Landship Gran Fiore

Chelle showed up on a ship the size of a mountain!

This landship is adorned as if it were a royal court.

Is now truly the time to be dancing? The Empire's assault is growing apace.

Ah, but there's more to a party than mere dance.

That's when we looked outside and saw...

Those men down there are battling fiends!

Today we'll have another guest provide the entertainment!

Charge!

Hah!

Okay, what the absolute heck is she thinking?!

One of the guys fighting the fiends turned out to be Euden's former teacher!

I fear they too were lured here.

Was this Chelle's plan all along?!

We have to save them!

Haaaaaah!

Vice Captain of the White Sparrows
Patia

Chelle had taken this whole thing WAY too far!

Captain of the White Sparrows
Leif

Your invitation arrived at precisely the moment when I resolved to depart the capital.

I presume your "little cats" have been paying mind to my movements for quite some time.

Eee hee hee!

She had some super secret way of gathering information. Just another reason not to like her.

But then we learned Leif had just been pretending to obey the Empire until he could rescue Zethia!

I believe the knowledge I seek may lie in **Clave Loy'elune.**

Is that so?

Alas, I fear I have little interest in that younger sister of ours.

So was she also not interested in the people suffering under the Empire?

Joining this little cause of yours provides me no advantage.

The masses want a leader who pulls them OUT of suffering!

The course you are on will only lead to their sufferings growing.

Buuut... If you take care of the nasty beasties swarming my castle, I MIGHT cooperate with you.

Eee hee hee!

Ugh!

We do this not for her, but for her people.

Let's go!

Hear me, people of Chanzelia!

The rampaging beasts have been put to the sword by my beloved brother!

Remember: We, the royal family of the great Alberia, shall ever be your protectors!

Huzzah!

Huzzah!

All glory to our lady Chelle!

She wasn't TECHNICALLY lying, but it was clear we were being used!

A highborn lady such as myself would never deign to break her word.

I will offer you intelligence and resources, but nothing more.

I can live with that.

That worked out pretty well—but could we REALLY trust her?

Perhaps there is a way for you to understand her true intentions...

Go to the source of the power that supports Chanzelia—the materium mine.

There was something kinda funky about the mana there, so off we went.

But instead of a person, we found this crazy thing!

INTRUDERS DETECTED.

Could this really be one of the ancient magical weapons of legend...?

It is one of the many soulless fiends once used by the Dyrenell Empire.

So you found it, did you?

This is the Gran Criminale.

I will use it to rip apart any who aid and abet the Empire! I will raze the very dirt on which they stand to cinder and ash!

Chelle said she would spare us if we swore to obey her, but...

I can't follow you so long as you intend to do harm to innocent people all across this land.

Oh dear.

Only a fool would seek to govern on the strength of hopes and good ideals alone.

Finish them!

So we combined our strength and beat the stuffing outta her dumb weapon!

No! No no no no noooooo! I will not forget this!

Argh!

Enough, Chelle.

This act grows stale.

What?!

Goodness. Eee hee hee!

The weapon you just destroyed was not mine at all.

The Dyrenell Empire deployed it here to disrupt our mining operations.

Turns out that jerk tricked us into doing her dirty work FOR her!

Had I ASKED you to do it, Brother, I would be in your debt.

Eee hee hee!

I'm none too fond of cunning and guile coming at my own expense.

Even Jupiter was mad!

How about this? I'll give you some of the abundant mana I now have thanks to our supply of materium.

Very well. I agree to your generous offer.

Splendid!

And from this moment hence, Euden's elder sister officially recognizes your relationship with him!

Sooo... I guess all's well that ends well?

Clave Loy'elune, where the truth about the Other lay hidden.

It shall prove a challenge to even draw near to so much miasma.

This is the greatest of the Binding Ruins.

A place filled with great nostalgia... and remorse.

There was no turning back—we had to save Zethia!

Is that Alberius the Founder's name carved in this monument?

Whoa! Why is Euden glowing?!

The blood of dragons within you resonates with the monument.

Suddenly, we could see something else.

I have you now, Morsayati!

Morsayati

Upon this ground shall you be sealed away!

Alberius

The monument showed us a vision of something that happened 300 years ago!

That was...

Yes. That was His Majesty, King Alberius.

So I guess this ruin is where Alberius and the Other had their final battle?

Ha ha ha! The portion of my being that sleeps here yearns for awakening.

Zethia!

No, I should call you by your true name... Morsayati!

The Other was planning to recover the last of his body in this binding ruin!

I have dispatched writs of invitation to the prince's other siblings as well.

Sit tight and watch, my foolish friends!

Heh heh heh!

No way were we gonna let that happen!

As we made our way through the ruin, we kept running into other folks who'd been invited.

And thanks to the monuments, we learned what happened 300 years ago.

...

Ack!

I hail from another world; a being of pure, refined power itself.

Brandish the blade to your heart's content. It matters not, for my soul is inviolable!

If that is your true form, then...

Sleep within my blood, Morsayati!

The secret art of the Blood Casket!

STAB!

Have you lost your wits, you fool?!

You will blend into my blood, and over the generations your very being will fade to nothing.

So apparently the Other's soul was sleeping in the blood of the royal family! It was WILD!

What we have seen is not the end.

The body of the Other was scattered across Grastaea at the end of the battle, and fiends spawned near it continuously.

What?!

This dude's worse than a cockroach!

By shattering the sacred sword and placing its fragments in any area that held a part of the Other...

He was able to hold back the power of the Other's flesh.

Oh!

And those became the Sacred Shards!

His search for the scattered pieces of the Other eventually brought him once more to Clave Loy'elune.

Wowzers!

The soul within your blood awoke when you stood before my body.

Ha ha ha ha!

I can restrain him no longer...

...No! I cannot give up! This body is still my own!

King... I will join you.

Chthonius

It saddens me beyond measure to do this, old friend, but lend your strength to me one last time!

I will absorb the Other into my body and hold him there!

After absorbing the Other, Alberius descended into the depths of the earth.

Alberius gave all he had to bring peace to this world, and I'm proud to call him my ancestor!

Aah ha ha!

Will you still say that after what you see next?

Chthonius!

The Founder King! Alberius!

Grrrrr...

Urgh...

He'd been holding the Other back for 300 years!

Please, my descendant. Grant me a swift end.

Do it before I am devoured by the Other entirely!

Urgh!

The part of the Other sealed in King Alberius was going all sorts of crazy, which left us no choice but to fight.

I swear to carry on your will!

Your Majesty, no!

The defeated king gave Chthonius's mana to Zodiark.

Thank you for freedom...at long last.

Heh heh.

So you are finally shuffling off this mortal coil, eh, Alberius?

Your meager strength cannot defeat the essence of all that I am!

Behold the hour of my rebirth!

At last, I am whole once more!

Swear fealty to me and live.

I didn't think anyone would take the Other up on that, but...

I serve no one— I simply fight at their side to lay waste to the old ways.

I only follow the path that satisfies my inquiring mind.

The kingdom must not be sundered.

In the end, ALL of Euden's siblings sided with the Other!

Heh heh...

Henceforth, you will face off against those with whom you share blood!

Ha ha ha!

Entrust the future of this world to your dear sister! Entrust it to ME!